

Waste Collection Companies Meeting April 7, 2005

Companies with Attendees: American Disposal, Reston Trash, AAA, Virginia Trash
New Vision, AAA, Trash Away, Potomac Disposal Services

County staff: Joyce Doughty, Jeff Smithberger, Randy Hancock, Linda Boone, Art Culbertson,
Pamela Gratton

Guests: Clark Tyler (Solid Waste Task Force)

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce welcomed everyone.

Announcements/Updates

Separate yard waste collections began April 1. Collectors should collect yard waste separately for recycling if it is in containers, paper bags or clear plastic bags. If collectors can identify yard waste, they should collect it as yard waste. County staff will remind residents about using clear plastic or paper bags in literature prepared by the county. It was discussed that clear plastic bags are available at Safeway, Wegmans, Giant, and Home Depot. Since some collectors stated that clear plastic and paper bags are not readily available, county staff will call Safeway at Rosehill (703-313-8800) and Giant at Rolling Road (703-978-0362) to see if clear bags can be stocked.

NOTE: County staff called on May 6 and the Giant had kraft paper bags but the Safeway Manager indicated he did not carry clear plastic nor kraft paper bags because there was no demand for them; he would stock them, if there was a requirement to use clear plastic or paper bags.

Separate brush collection is required yearround.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) events

The County sponsors 3 events per year. April 13 and July 27 are the next event dates at the I-66 Complex location. Materials collected, qualifications to participate and the price list are in the CESQG brochure and online at the county's website
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/recyclingtrash.htm>.

Questions from Collectors

One collector had a question about the starting time for collection operations. The County Zoning Ordinance states that residential waste collection can begin at 6:00 a.m. Some collectors stated they had been told that the start time had been changed to 5:00 a.m. This is incorrect as no change has occurred.

Quality Customer Service Standards

County staff will be implementing the Quality Customer Service Program developed by the Solid Waste Task Force in conjunction with several collection companies. The plan is to send the Quality Customer Service Standards to collectors. The collectors can review the standards and

if they agree to abide by the standards, they will sign a form and return it to the County. Staff will then identify the collection company as a participant in the program on the County's website listing of permitted collectors. If the company chooses to withdraw from the program, the company will let County staff know and we will remove the collector from the list. County staff will ask the question about participation annually on the permit package. However, the program is strictly voluntary for collection companies. Charter members of the program will be identified on the webpage, also. The Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling will be a charter member of the Quality Customer Service Program.

Solid Waste Task Force (SWTF) Update

The SWTF has almost completed its work. The SWTF will meet April 12 to review the narrative report. Collectors are invited to the meeting to review the text. The meeting will be Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Group Decision Support Center. The final report will be approved at the April 26 meeting in the same location.

On May 23, the SWTF will present its report to the Board of Supervisors at 10:15 a.m. This should end the work of this task force.

Clark Tyler a member of the task force visited with collectors. They discussed several items from the report. The definition of brush was an important issued considered by the SWTF.

Q: How do collectors feel about the size of brush being 6 inches in diameter versus 3 inches.

A: A collector stated that the length is usually the issue not the diameter of brush collected. Longer pieces can jam collection truck equipment. Collectors do not want to become landscaping companies. Currently the length of brush that must be collected is 4 feet per Fairfax County Code.

Discussions and increased communication between collection companies and customers should help resolve customer service issues on a case by case basis. County collection crews use tags that explain why materials were not collected and that give a phone number to contact. It is a business decision about how much brush a collector will collect beyond the minimums addressed in the Code.

A collector stated that land clearing operations do not result in brush; brush is the result of household pruning of trees and bushes. The SWTF recognized that and offered a suggestion about how to define brush. County staff should add some definition of brush in the proposed recycling brochure.

Q: Would a smaller diameter add more to the definition of brush than a length maximum?

A: County staff stated that the 50 pound rule is better. Changes to Fairfax County Code may state something about volume of brush when the revision is done in early 2006. It remains a judgment call of collectors about how much brush they will collect.

Q: What about lumber?

A: Lumber is not yard waste; pressure-treated, dimensional wood is not yard waste. Lumber is construction/demotion/debris and not treated the same as brush.

Q: What about mixed bags or containers of yard waste and trash?

A: Collection companies can refuse to take mixed waste as a business decision.

Sanitary District Announcements

Service for 24 new waste customers and 59 leaf collection customers begins July 1, 2005. The Board of Supervisors approved the districts following a recent public hearing.

Recycling Program Updates

July 1, 2005, is the start date for voluntary compliance by collectors of the new recycling materials program. Mandatory compliance begins January 1, 2006. Flattened cardboard, mixed paper and plastic bottles and jugs are the new materials to be collected curbside.

Pamela Gratton mentioned the state requirement for 25% of the waste stream to be recycled. The county meets that goal every year. In 2004, the rate for the county was 32%. Currently the state report asks for information by material. It will be difficult to identify individual material information separately, if and when, recycling is reported by single stream with materials commingled. Recycling is mandatory in Fairfax County.

Recycling Brochure

County staff is developing a brochure that discusses how to recycle the new materials to be collected curbside starting July 1. County staff will help personalize the initial distribution of the brochures for collection company customers. Copies of the brochure have already been sent to the collection companies for review and comment. A collector suggested that the draft brochure needed a few changes. There will be a meeting with the collection companies to finalize the changes. County staff will provide an electronic version of the final brochure to the companies for their future use.

Q: What if a collector is using single stream for its recycling program?

A: If a company is using single stream, then its brochure will need to be changed to reflect that. That is one reason county staff is working with collectors to design the initial brochure for each collector.

Q: Is there a single stream recycler in the area?

A: Yes, Recycle America accepts some single stream and sorted loads. A collector mentioned that sometime the Dorr Ave (Recycle America) facility takes single stream as does Capitol Fibers.

Q: Is there glass recycling in the county?

A: Yes, but the quantity of glass being recycled is decreasing as more products move to plastic containers. Glass weighs a lot and when broken is a contaminant for other recyclables. The county may change the requirement for glass recycling in the future.

Suggestions for the recycling brochure included:

- Add photos to help explain how to recycle and the what materials can be recycled
- Add a revision date to the brochure
- Homeowners associations (HOAs) are good contacts about recycling —maybe send a copy of the brochure to HOAs.

- Add glass, light bulbs and ceramics to the glass column.
- Add information about the size of brush collected
- Mention catalogs and magazines under paper recycling

County staff would like to get copies of any changes that collectors make to their brochure so we can be updated too.

Operational Items

Speed limits

Please ask drivers to obey the speed limits in neighborhoods and while at our facilities. Most neighborhood streets have a 25 m.p.h. limit, while County facilities usually have a lower speed limit of 15 m.p.h.

Permitting

Collection and disposal permits expire annually and must be renewed by June 30, 2005. Please sign up early for vehicle inspections. Permitting information for FY2006 will be mailed soon and it will be on the county's website. New tare weights are required for all vehicles. Please remind your drivers that they need to go to end of the line to get weighed for the tare weights.

Signs

Please ask your drivers to obey the traffic rules and stop signs. Because of the volume of traffic at County disposal facilities, we will be enforcing traffic regulations.

Safety reminders

Please remind your drivers to wear their safety vests when out of their vehicles for any reason at a County disposal facility. Ask them not to walk on tipping floors and to stay with the truck while unloading.

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Companies are asked to contact Art Culbertson at 703-324-5230 about subscribing to the CEAN. This will allow companies to receive notifications about pending weather events or other emergencies. A CEAN handout was distributed.

Changes to Fairfax County Code Chapter 109

Changes to the Code, that were approved earlier this year, will be posted to the County's website soon.

Billing

County invoice payments are due by the due date printed on the invoice. The county charges interest on overdue accounts at the rate of 10% annually or \$10 whichever is greater per month. Interest will be charged if payments are late. Please ensure that checks are made payable to the County of Fairfax - DSWDRR and that they are mailed to the correct address, as shown on the invoice.

New agreements for FY2006

The agreements have been sent to collectors and disposers who want to sign them.

Q: There is a statement about a penalty if a company does not attend a mandatory meeting, what does that mean?

A: County staff want to ensure that if a mandatory meeting is called, collectors will attend or they will be charged \$55 per ton for all their disposal tons that day. County staff will always advise companies if there is a mandatory meeting. We have not had one this past year. Collector meetings are not mandatory meetings, unless specifically stated in written correspondence.

Tip Fee

The system fee remains \$48 per ton for solid waste disposal in FY2006. For companies with a contract, the tip fee will be \$44.95.

Computer recycling events

The next events will be at Chantilly High School and Northern Virginia Community College. The cost to dispose of a monitor is \$10; there is no fee for other components such as printers, keyboards, etc. The cost is tax deductible. TVs can be disposed at a higher cost.

Cell phones recycling

Cell phones and other rechargeable batteries can now be recycled as part of an enhanced partnership with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Coalition. Collection containers are being placed in all the Supervisor's district offices and through affiliated retailers such as WalMart, Radio Shack, and Sears.

Earth Day/Arbor Day

April 23 is Arbor Day/Earth Day and there will be celebrations throughout the county. Compost bin sales will be held at Northern Virginia Community College and in Centreville that day. The cost of the 30 gallon bin is \$38 and it can fit easily in any car.

Collector issues

Lines at the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility are a problem that collectors report. Recent maintenance outages are the cause of some delays. County staff and Covanta employees work to accommodate all collectors and disposers, but at certain times of the day, there are lines due to the way collection operations occur. The E/RRF is open until 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 7, 2005 at 5:00 pm. in the Government Center Room 9-10